

# Nancy's News

## December Issue

### Seasons Greetings

Office of Councilmember Nancy Pyle



**Dear District 10 Friends & Residents,**

Happy Holidays and congratulations to the residents of District 10! While you may have recently read that San Jose now ranks as the 3rd safest city among large cities in the United States, I am extremely pleased to report that the number of crimes occurring in District 10 has actually decreased significantly in the past few months. During my monthly meeting with San Jose Police Department Southern Division Captain Dave Cavallaro, I was informed that our crime rate in certain types of crimes was actually cut in half when comparing the monthly crime statistics that are compiled by our police department. This could only happen through the concerted effort of our hardworking SJPd officers and District 10 residents like you!

This is fantastic news and San Jose has always approached public safety from a community and neighborhood policing strategy. Just to give you an idea of the amazing job Captain Cavallaro has been doing, here are a few statistics:

- Robberies – down 60% (5 reported in Sept., 2 reported in Oct.)
- Auto Theft – down 30% (26 reported in Sept., 18 reported in Oct.)
- Vehicular Burglary – down 50% (18 reported in Sept., 9 reported in Oct.)
- Residential Burglary – down 50% (28 reported in Sept., 14 reported in Oct.)

Although in an ideal world we would have no crimes to report at all, the vigilance and constant presence of our local police men and women has had a substantial impact on our areas crime rate. When I asked Captain Cavallaro why our District in particular was doing so well compared to other areas that have the same number of officers, his answer was very clear. It comes down to the responsibility of the people in each neighborhood to be on the lookout for suspicious activity and alert the police when something doesn't seem right. Captain Cavallaro also stated that it is truly the people of Almaden Valley and Blossom Valley who have taken the time to help keep their neighborhoods safe. Just remember, if a crime is not reported, then the police can't respond and take action to ensure our community's safety.

This month we must be even more vigilant, as there is even more of an opportunity for thieves and other criminals to take advantage of the hectic holiday season. I want to share several steps that each of us can take to ensure that crime continues to stay at an extreme low in our District. Many of us will be out shopping this month and these tips are invaluable in staying safe at this time of year:

- Keep valuables out of plain sight, preferably in the trunk of your vehicle
- Keep doors locked and windows rolled up
- Approach your vehicle with the key in hand, be observant when entering
- If you shop late, bring a friend or security guard to walk you to your vehicle
- Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you. If something doesn't feel right, stay in a visible and public area.
- In case of an emergency, call the San Jose Police Department at 9-1-1;

#### December 2007 Issue



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Councilmember Nancy Pyle stands with members of the San Jose Youth Symphony. The string quartet, with Elaine Higashi and Hannah Lee on violins, Conor McClure on viola, and Justin Li on cello performed at City Hall during an invocation for the November 20th council meeting.

if using a cell phone call (408) 277-8911

December is a wonderful time of year and can be a month filled with fun events shared by friends and family. It is also a time to give back and discover the deeper spirit of the season. I hope that with some of these tips and the knowledge that our community is a safe one, each of you is able to truly enjoy this incredible time of year with family and friends.

Wishing you the happiest and safest of holidays,



Nancy Pyle  
Councilmember, District Ten

### Citywide Update

#### • **School Zone Speed Limit Reduction Bill Signed Into Law**

The Governor recently signed into law a bill that will allow cities and counties to reduce speed limits in front of school buildings and grounds. The new law will allow agencies to reduce the school zone speed limit to 20 or 15 mph, on two-lane roads that are currently posted with speed limits of 30 mph or less. The current law establishes 25 mph as the prima facie speed limit. This will likely be considered positively by communities throughout the state, but will also result in expectations of increased enforcement and immediate downward speed zoning, both of which require extensive resources. Currently the Police and Transportation Departments, working with the City Attorney's office and the City Managers office, are reviewing the law and exploring new strategies for its implementation.

#### • **Code Enforcement Update**

As of last month, eight potential new Code Enforcement Inspectors have been chosen. Pending medical and Dept. of Justice clearance, these individuals should be joining the Code Enforcement team between mid-November and mid-December. Since the appointments are only provisional at this point, their names have not been released. The group is highly qualified and will fit well into the organization. Additional details on mentoring programs for these new Code Enforcement Inspectors will be coming out in the next few weeks.

In addition, the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement is pleased to announce that, effective November 5th, 2007, all *Routine Complaints* to the Code Enforcement Division will receive field inspection services. These complaints include zoning, illegal signs, inoperable vehicles on private property, lawn parking, overgrown weeds, and other conditions that affect the quality of our neighborhoods and business districts. In the past, only Immediate and Priority Complaints received field inspection services. For questions or more information, please contact the Code Enforcement Office at 277-4528.

### Make An Impact in District 10!



*Thinking of ways to get involved in our community?  
For more information please contact the District 10  
Office at (408) 535-4910*

### Get Into the Spirit of the Season - Give Back Today!

#### *Cambrian & Almaden Business Association Coat Drive*

This year the Cambrian and Almaden Business Association is working towards providing children's jackets for ages 6-18 yrs to the Children's Shelter in the Cambrian Community (4525 Union Ave).

By making a simple donation of a new or barely used coat, your donation will go to the Children's Shelter which houses children who have been removed from or abandoned by their families.

To send your generous donation, **please bring your new or barely used coats to the CBA/ABA BRN held each Friday morning at 8 am at the Cup and Saucer** located at 1375 Blossom Hill Rd., San Jose.

**For more information, please call Jocelyn at 494-7000 ext. 219 or Sue at 978-7137.**

### *Volunteer at Sacred Heart!*

Councilmember Nancy Pyle and her staff recently visited Sacred Heart to help distribute food to local families for Thanksgiving. **Now it's your turn to lend a helping hand and get involved with Sacred Heart**, who regularly provides food to over 400 families on a daily basis.

- **SJPD Co-Hosts Kids' Safety Fair**

The SJPD and Walgreens Drug Store presented a Kids Safety Fair in the Walgreens parking lot at 2585 Almaden Rd. on Saturday, October 27th. The major focus of the Fair was fingerprinting children. Forty-seven children were fingerprinted, had their picture taken, and were given a DNA swab kit.

- **City Receives Two National Communications and Marketing Awards**

The City recently received two national Awards of Excellence from the City County Communications and Marketing Association(3CMA) at their annual conference in Kansas City. 3CMA, an organization of public sector communicators, selected the City's two newsletters, ***Inside San Jose***, a new monthly publication introduced earlier this year which highlights City accomplishments, and ***Cityline***, the recently redesigned internal employee newsletter, for design and content. The publications were chosen out of 780 entries from large cities all over the country.

- **City Responds to Request to Aid Southern CA Fire Agencies**

During the month of October, the City of San Jose was asked to provide mutual aid to Southern California to fight the raging wildfires. Staff from Fire, Planning and the Office of Emergency Services (OES) responded. Those who were sent down to assist include three engine companies -

San Jose Engine 2B assigned to Strike Team XSC 2303-A; deployed Sunday, October 21 returned Tuesday, October 30, 2007. Crew: Captain **Carl Roberts**, Fire Engineer **Willie Banuelos**, Firefighter **Bill Murray**, Fire Paramedic **Kyle Carter**.

**San Jose Engine 16A** assigned to Strike Team XSC 2302-A; deployed Monday, October 22 returned Sunday, October 28, 2007. Crew: Captain **Jim Blean**, Fire Engineer **Mike Lillie**, Firefighter **Matt Kelly** (now promoted to Fire Engineer); Fire Paramedic **Sal Gonzalez**.

**San Jose Engine 13A** assigned to Strike Team XSC 2301-A; deployed Monday, October 22 returned Monday, October 29, 2007. Crew: Captain **Jan Gall**; Fire Engineer **Doug McLeod**, Firefighter **David Lang**; Fire Paramedic **Ethan Morris**.

**Battalion Chief Keith Keesling** was also sent in as a Strike Team leader trainee and Senior Public Safety Dispatcher **Lisa Stabler** responded as part of an overhead team for communications.

**These brave men and women of the San Jose Fire Department will be honored with a commendation from Mayor Reed and the City Council at the December 11th afternoon City Council meeting.**

- **Emergency Preparedness Update**

On Wednesday, November 14th, the City of San Jose and County co-sponsored Golden Guardian, a statewide disaster exercise. This year's exercise focused on the response to a terrorist incident involving a biological agent. The purpose was to assist first responders, managers of large stadiums, public transit agencies, and County Public Health to

On a normal day, each customer leaves with a grocery bag of nonperishable items, a 5 to 15 lb. bag of produce, and a cold bag that consists of a meat product, eggs, a loaf of bread, and a package of tortillas. **Sacred Heart's "Louise's Pantry" brings in 2 million + pounds of food a year with the help of volunteer support.** Second Harvest Food Bank, their wonderful partner, provides the 1.4 million pounds of food needed to serve these families.

Sacred Heart Community Service was founded in 1964, when Louise Benson, then 61, made her first food basket delivery in downtown San Jose. Louise was a faith filled woman who felt compelled to take action as long as her neighbors in Santa Clara County were hungry and in need.

**For more information on ways you can help, please contact Sacred Heart Community Services (1381 South 1st St, San Jose, CA 95110) at (408) 278-2160.**

### **Hat's Off to the following individuals & groups for the month of December!**

- **Pioneer High School**, where forty-one students received the President's Volunteer Service Award for performing over 100 hours of community service within a 12-month period. A total of 6,400 hours of service were recorded as the students worked to overcome issues of literacy, homelessness and environmental concerns. Five of the students performed over 250 hours of service within the 12 month period. **Pioneer teacher and service learning coordinator Mike Burrell**, who guided these 41 students through their service learning experience, was also recently awarded the honor of **"Teacher of the Year"** by the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce.



identify gaps in policy, training and equipment. The exercise began at San Jose's Municipal Stadium and ended at the County Fairgrounds. Approximately 500 community volunteers participated in the exercise and a separate exercise was conducted with the city's Emergency Operations Center for senior staff. The Mayor and a number of Councilmembers attended the exercise throughout the day. Overall, it was a very informative and useful event.

## District 10 Announcements, Highlights & Events

### San Jose & Downtown Are the Place To Be For the Holidays!



During the month of December, San Jose and its Downtown for the Holidays campaign encourages visitors to enjoy the many shows, museums, restaurants and holiday events, such as Downtown Ice and Christmas in the Park, which were highlighted during the San Jose Holiday Parade on December 2nd. With internationally recognized superstar Mickey Mouse as Grand Marshal this year, San Jose's Holiday Parade was truly spectacular. **The award-winning parade, which is the largest in Northern California,** was broadcast live at 9:00 am on December 2nd on NBC 11. It will be re-broadcast on December 22nd and 24th on NBC 11. In addition KQED will re-broadcast it on December 17th and on December 25 KTEH will air the final re-broadcasting. This combination of stations and broadcasts will reach the entire San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay Areas, including major parts of Northern and Central California, to highlight the wide array of Downtown attractions. In addition, NTDTV, a Chinese language network, will broadcast the parade nationally in major US markets, just before Christmas.

### County To Upgrade Almaden Expressway To Ease Congestion

*Article provided by County Supervisor Ken Yeager's Office*

Help is on the way for Almaden Expressway, which is home to some of the worst traffic in Santa Clara County.

Thanks to funding from the federal government, the County Roads and Airports Department is planning a \$5.25 million upgrade focused on relieving traffic congestion along the stretch of Almaden Expressway between Branham Lane and Blossom Hill Road. The county has been hoping to make the improvements for quite some time, but the Roads and Airports Department had to wait until funding was available.

While the City of San Jose is in charge of making improvements on city streets

- **Gunderson High School,** for earning additional Federal funding through the Magnet Schools Assistance Award program. San Jose Unified School District Superintendent Don Iglesias recently accepted a check for \$6,305,113 dollars, which represents \$2.1 million dollars annually over a 3 year period for the 6 magnet schools in San Jose Unified. **Gunderson High School will utilize the additional funding as an Advanced Design Technology magnet to continue focusing on the Arts and Sciences.**

### City Wide Phone List

Call Center	535-3500
Police Non-Emergency	311
Code Enforcement	277-4528
Animal Care	578-7297
City Arborist	277-2762
Crime Prevention	277-4133
Crime Stoppers	947-STOP
Drug Hotline	971-DRUG
DOT	277-4373
Environmental Services	535-8550
Hazardous Materials	277-4659
Housing	535-3860
Neighborhood Development Center	723-4114
Parking Enforcement	534-2900

such as Branham and Blossom Hill, the county oversees expressways such as Almaden Expressway and San Tomas Expressway.

Project leaders from the County Roads and Airports Department met with residents in the area before unveiling the plan to find out where the worst-congested segments along Almaden Expressway were. Residents consistently said the area near Almaden and Blossom Hill had the worst backups.

Construction on upgrading and widening Almaden is expected to begin in 2009. after the county finishes its planning phases of the project, which are currently under way.

## Neighborhood Center

### Mayor Reed's Green Vision Art Contest!

Mayor Chuck Reed is searching for talented children to help illustrate the ten Green Vision Goals for San Jose. Children (13 years old and under) are asked to pick a Green Vision Goal and draw their creative interpretation of that goal. Then mail their picture and completed registration form to: **Mayor Chuck Reed 200 E. Santa Clara St., 18th Fl., San Jose, CA 95113.**

Ten pictures (one for each goal) will be featured at the State of the City Community breakfast on January 16th, 2008 and on the Mayor's website. The artist will receive a letter of congratulations from the Mayor, two tickets to the breakfast (for the artist and a parent or guardian) and will jointly lead the Pledge of Allegiance before the State of the City.

#### Green Vision Goals:

1. Create 25,000 jobs in the environmentally-friendly industry
2. Cut energy use in half
3. Receive all electrical power from solar, wind, or other clean sources
4. Build 50 million square feet of energy-efficient homes, offices, and schools
5. Recycle our garbage
6. Recycle our water
7. Adopt a plan for the City that promotes a walkable, bicycle-friendly city
8. Have all City cars run on alternative fuels
9. Plant 100,000 new trees
10. Create 100 miles of walking and biking trails



#### Rules for entry:

- Artist must have their parent's or legal guardian's permission to enter
- Artist must live in San Jose and be 13 years old or younger as of 12/13/07
- Multiple entries may be submitted by a single artist
- Artwork must be submitted on an 8 1/2 in. x 11 sheet of paper
- **Artwork must be postmarked by December 14, 2007.**

Please contact [mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov) for an official entry form or if you would like more information on the contest.

Vehicle Abatement	277-5305
Gang Hotline	293-4264
Anti-Graffiti/Litter	277-3208

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### Contact Us

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Councilmember, District Ten

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### District 10 Staff

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## Car Insurance Discounts for Mature Drivers

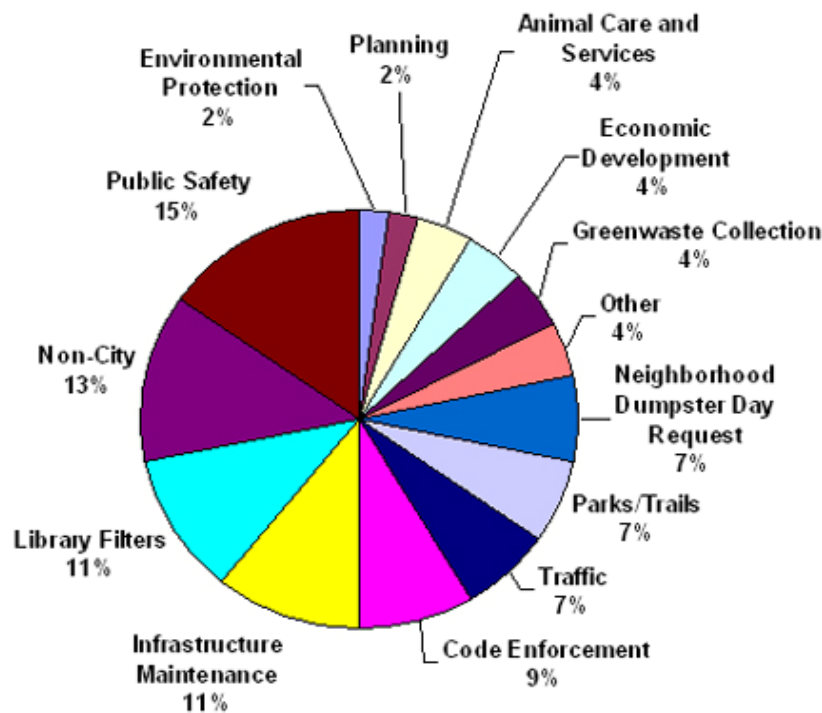
Many mature drivers are not aware that they might be able to reduce their car insurance costs by as much as 5% just by taking a Mature Driver Improvement Course. These courses are available in traditional classroom setting as well as online for those with internet access. In the classroom, the course is generally 8 hours and costs less than \$20. Discounts are for a 3-year period and renewal classes are available for additional 3-year extensions. **For more information, please contact AARP (1-866-448-3614) or the CA Division of Motor Vehicles (1-800-777-0133).** In the San Jose area, classes are offered at various locations including community and senior centers. More information is also available through Metro Adult Ed at [www.metroed.net](http://www.metroed.net) or (408) 723-6370.



## City Council Meetings

The City Council convenes every Tuesday at 1:30 PM at 200 East Santa Clara Street. On the first and third Tuesday of the month the Council meets at 7:00 PM for Public Hearings. Meetings can also be viewed on the web at [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov) or on the City cable TV station, Channel 26/26A.

## October 2007 Constituent Concerns and Requests by Topic



**"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."**

**~ Winston Churchill**

## World Calendar December 2007

*This month sailors set off from Fremantle, Australia, on the inaugural Antarctica Cup, a non-stop race to circumnavigate Antarctica, over a distance of 14,600 miles.*

Wed., December 5th:

9:45 am - 11:00 am

**Almaden Senior Association Meeting**

Almaden Community Center ; 6445 Camden Avenue

Mon., December 10th:

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) meeting**

Almaden Community Center ; 6445 Camden Avenue

Mon., December 10th:

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**Community Sports Field Feasibility Study Meeting**

Almaden Community Center ; 6445 Camden Avenue

Tues., Dec. 11th:

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Martial Cottle Park Task Force**

Almaden Winery Community Center ; 5730 Chambertin Drive

Wednesday, December 19th

**Hoffman Via Monte Christmas Party**

Cornerstone Community Church; 5655 Gallup Drive

*"Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles."*

*~Author Unknown*

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